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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/618,771	07/15/2003	Jutta Barlage	004501-732	6028

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EXAMINER

WILLOUGHBY, TERRENCE RONIQUE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2836

DATE MAILED: 11/02/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/618,771

Applicant(s)

BARLAGE ET AL.

Examiner

Terrence R. Willoughby

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 16 and 17 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7/15/03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

2. Claims 1-5, 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Schmidt et al. (US 6,594,133).

Regarding claim 1, Schmidt et al. discloses a pluggable electrical apparatus (Fig. 1) in particular a surge arrester, with an axially symmetrically formed housing (10) with a housing axis running in the plugging direction (Abstract, lines 1-3), a means for fastening the apparatus housing on a housing of a high-voltage installation (Column 2, lines 16-19) and with an axially symmetrical active part (Abstract, lines 4-5) with an axially routed circuit (Abstract, line 14), including a plug-in contact (Fig. 1, numeral 5), a grounding terminal (6) (Column 1, lines 8-9 and 31) and a non-linear resistance element (9) (Column 3, lines 5-6) connected in between, and with an axially symmetrical insulator (13) (Column 3, lines 35-36), which forms an insulating cone and surrounds the non-linear resistance element (Fig. 1, numeral 9) and an electrical connection (Fig. 1, through elements 3 and 6) with respect to the plug-in contact (Fig. 1, numeral 5),

wherein the fastening means is formed into the apparatus housing (Column 2, lines 12-19), and in that the active part is mounted displaceable in the axial direction in the apparatus housing and held with a prestressing force (Fig. 1, through spring 18) with respect to the apparatus housing before a plug-in connection is formed.

Regarding claim 2, Schmidt et al. discloses the apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the insulator is provided with an electrically conductive layer (Column 3, lines 43-45).

Regarding claim 3, Schmidt et al. discloses the apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein an end of the insulating cone (Fig. 1, numeral 13) remote from the plug-in contact (Fig. 1, numeral 5) is configured as an undercut and bears an inwardly disposed (Fig. 1, numeral 16), rounded portion (Fig. 1, numeral 15) of the electrically conductive layer.

Regarding claim 4, Schmidt et al. discloses the apparatus as claimed in 1, wherein the non-linear resistance element (Fig. 1, numeral 9) is given a rounded form on the plug-in contact side (Fig. 1, numeral 5).

Regarding claim 5, Schmidt et al. discloses the apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the insulator (Fig. 1, numeral 13) is given a rounded configuration, at least on the plug-in contact side (Fig. 1, numeral 5).

Regarding claim 9, Schmidt et al. discloses the apparatus as claimed in one of claims 1, in which the grounding terminal (Fig. 1,numeral 6) is fastened to a groundable end of the active part (Fig. 1, numeral 8) and led through a base (Fig. 1, numeral 11) of the apparatus housing (Fig. 1,numeral 10), wherein a prestressed compression spring (Fig. 1, numeral 18), and the compression spring arranged between the groundable end and the base of the apparatus housing.

Regarding claim 10, Schmidt et al. discloses the apparatus as claimed in claim 9, in which a thread is formed into an end of the grounding terminal led out of the apparatus housing (Fig. 1,numeral 10) wherein the thread serves for receiving a clamping nut (Fig. 1, numeral 12) in the grounding terminal (Fig.1, numeral 11) has a thread-free portion (Fig. 1, numeral 6) which is led out from the apparatus housing and serves for mounting of a securing sleeve (11) which can be provided between the clamping nut and the base of the apparatus housing.

Regarding claim 11, Schmidt et al. discloses the apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein an bearing sleeve (Fig. 1, numeral 13), which is axially aligned and encloses the grounding terminal (Column 2, line 67 and Column 3, line 1) is formed into a base of the apparatus housing (Fig. 1, 10), with a lateral surface serving for guiding (Column 2, lines 12-20) the compression spring (Fig. 1, numeral 18).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable by Schmidt et al. (US 6,594,133) and Rudy (US 5,684,665).

Regarding claim 6, Schmidt et al. discloses the apparatus as claimed in claim 1, but lacks an opening formed into a lateral surface of the apparatus housing. Schmidt et al. discloses a pressure-resistant apparatus formed in a shape of a bottle with an overpressure value (Column 2, lines 21-30). However, Rudy discloses using an opening formed into a lateral surface of the apparatus housing (Column 1, lines 45-48). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide openings into the lateral surface of the apparatus housing taught by Rudy to help ventilate hazardous gases within the apparatus taught by Schmidt et al. when partial discharges occur on the active part.

Regarding claim 7, Schmidt et al. in view of Rudy discloses the apparatus as claimed in claim 6. Rudy discloses the openings (Fig. 1, numeral 28). Schmidt et al.

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discloses the insulator (Fig. 1, numeral 13), which comprises the end of the non-linear resistance element (Fig. 1, numeral 9) and plug-in contact (Fig. 1, numeral 5). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the openings so that it is positioned opposite a region of the insulator, which comprises the end of the non-linear resistance element on the plug-in contact side so to effectively dissipate the gas.

Regarding claim 8, Schmidt et al. in view of Rudy discloses the apparatus as claimed in claim 6. Schmidt et al. discloses the apparatus housing is formed as a cylinder (Abstract, lines 12-17). Rudy discloses at least two openings arranged offset with respect to each other in the circumferential direction of the cylinder (Fig. 1, numeral 28) and (Column 7, lines 48-53).

5. Claims 12-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable by Schmidt et al. (US 6,594,133) and in view of Greuter et al. (US 6,678,139).

Regarding claim 12, Schmidt et al. discloses the apparatus as claimed in claim 1, with a fastening means for the electrical apparatus provided on a housing of the installation (Column 4, lines 15-21), but lacks a mating plug-in contact and a mating insulating cone, in which installation, after plugging together, the fastening means of the installation housing and the fastening means of the electrical apparatus are rigidly connected and the insulating cone and the mating insulating cone are pressed against

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each other without a gap. However, Greuter et al. discloses an mating plug-in contact and a mating insulating cone, in which installation (Column 6, lines 62-65), after plugging together, the fastening means of the installation housing and the fastening means of the electrical apparatus are rigidly connected and the insulating cone and the mating insulating cone (Fig. (7a), numerals 18 and 5) are pressed against each other. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the fastening means with the installation housing and electrical apparatus of Schmidt et al. by providing a mating plug-in contact and a mating insulating cone to reduce the dimension of one flange to the dimensions of the other flange.

Regarding claim 13, Schmidt et al. in view of Greuter et al. discloses the installation as claimed in claim 12. Schmidt et al. discloses the installation, wherein an adapter flange (Fig. 1, numeral 17), but does not disclose that the adapter flange is arranged between the fastening means (Column 2, lines 12-19) of the electrical apparatus, configured as a flange and a mating flange of the installation housing. However, Greuter et al. discloses an apparatus bushing of an electrical apparatus connected to the electrical conductor in a plug connection with an adapter and mating flange (Fig. 7a, 7b, and 7c) of the installation housing (Column 5, lines 3-4). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Schmidt et al. apparatus by providing an adapter and mating flange taught by Greuter et al. arranged between the fastening means and a mating flange in order

compensate for different dimensions of the fastening means of the apparatus housing and the installation housing.

Regarding claim 14, Schmidt et al. discloses the installation as claimed in claim 12, wherein the apparatus housing (Fig. 1, numeral 10) and the installation housing (Fig. 1, numeral 19) are given an electrically conductive form (Column 3, lines 54-57), and in that the apparatus housing is grounded via the fastening means and the installation housing (Column 3, lines 29-31).

Regarding claim 15, Schmidt et al. in view of Greuter et al. discloses a method for producing the high-voltage installation as claimed in claim 12. Schmidt et al. discloses the fastening means of the electrical apparatus is fixed on the fastening means of the high-voltage installation (Column 4, lines 7-14), and in that, after that, the active part of the electrical apparatus is led into the installation housing, with the prestressing force being reduced (Column 1, lines 12-18), with an electrical plug-in connection of the plug-in-contact (Fig. 1, numeral 5) and with a gap-free spacing (Column 2, lines 31-37). Greuter et al. discloses a mating plug-in contact (Column 5, lines 3-4) for the fastening means in the electrical apparatus.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claim 16 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Combined claim 16 would be allowable over the art of record because the prior art does not teach a marking for checking a position of the active part in the housed electrical apparatus as set forth in the claimed invention.

7. Claim 17 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim 15, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Combined claim 17 would be allowable over the art of record because the prior art does not teach the securing sleeve being removed after the plug-in connection has been formed as set forth in the claimed invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Terrence R. Willoughby whose telephone number is 571-272-2725. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Sircus can be reached on 571-272-2058. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TRW



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PRIMARY EXAMINER